



Colophonium

Your patch tests indicate you have a contact allergy to colophonium. This means that you should avoid all contact with colophonium. It is also called colophony or rosin. Colophonium is obtained from the sap of pine trees and is frequently used to make things sticky such as glues and adhesives.

Common sources of colophonium include:

- **Cosmetics** including mascara, lipstick, eye shadow and concealer, nail varnish
- **Toiletries** including clear soaps, hair-removing wax, dental floss, chewing gum, sanitary towels and nappies
- **Sports items** including athletic and gymnastic grips, ski wax, sports racket handles, golf club grips
- **Medicines/dressings** Wart removers, medicated creams, ointments, dressings e.g. Granuflex and Duoderm Thin, adhesive plasters
- **Rosin** for violin bows
- **Paper** and paper products, glossy magazines
- **Polishes and waxes**, pine oil cleaners
- **Pine trees** and pine sawdust
- **Shoes** (used as glue)
- **Other** Glue tackifiers, labels, stamps

Colophonium at work may be called by other names including abietic acid, abietic alcohol, abietyl alcohol, abitol, methyl abietate alcohol, gum rosin, tall oil and wood rosin. It may be found in:

- Soldering products and cutting fluids
- Printing inks
- Dental cements and impression paste
- Grease and lubricant thickener
- Machine belts and clutches
- Surface coatings and sealants and synthetic rubber
- Varnishes and glazes, paints, sealers, corrosion inhibitors
- Waterproofing agents

Ask your workplace to obtain the materials and safety data sheets (COSHH sheets) for products you use. Always check your products as these lists can never be complete and ingredients change.